

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A process to improve viability, growth, and differentiation of corneal epithelial cells, the process comprising:
applying an ophthalmic medicine or ophthalmic solution comprising a complex nutritive base to an external surface of a cornea of an eye of a human or an animal,
the base consisting of a multiplicity of amino acids, vitamins, trace elements, and metallic salts and being free of ~~any cellular growth factor or any biological extract of animal or cellular origin or any pharmaceutically active principle~~ epidermal growth factor, fetal calf serum, and bovine pituitary stalk extract, wherein
the ophthalmologic medicine or ophthalmologic solution consists of a trophic composition in an aqueous medium comprising the complex nutritive base; an inhibitor of collagenases of the human or animal corneal epithelium selected from the group consisting of cysteine, N-acetylcysteine, and EDTA calcium salt; and a promoter of neocollagen synthesis selected from the group consisting of proline and hydroxyproline.
2. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A process for treating an item that is designed to come into external contact with a cornea of an eye of a human or an animal, the process comprising:
treating the item with a treatment product comprising a complex nutritive base, the base consisting of a multiplicity of amino acids, vitamins, trace elements, and metallic salts and being free of ~~any cellular growth factor or any biological extract of animal or cellular origin or any pharmaceutically active principle~~ epidermal growth factor, fetal calf serum, and bovine pituitary stalk extract, wherein

the treatment product consists of a trophic composition in an aqueous medium comprising the complex nutritive base; an inhibitor of collagenases of the human or animal corneal epithelium selected from the group consisting of cysteine, N-acetylcysteine, and EDTA calcium salt; and a promoter of neocollagen synthesis selected from the group consisting of proline and hydroxyproline.

3-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in ~~claim 3~~, claim 1, wherein the trophic composition is formulated so as to establish a pH between 7.3 and 7.5 and an osmolarity between 300 and 350 ~~Osm~~ mOsm.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the inhibitor of collagenases is N-acetylcysteine.

8. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the inhibitor of collagenases represents at most 5% by weight of the trophic composition.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the promoter of neocollagen synthesis represents at most 0.5% by weight of the trophic composition.

11. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the ophthalmologic solution comprises hyaluronic acid and/or a salt of hyaluronic acid in a total proportion by weight of the trophic composition of at most 0.1% ~~and preferably 0.07%~~.

12. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the trophic composition includes a preservative in a proportion by weight of the composition of at most 0.0001%.

13. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the preservative is polyhexanide or polyhexamethylene biguanide.

14. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the trophic composition comprises the following components:

Component	Concentration (mg/L)
Water	q.s.
Sodium chloride	6800
Glutamine	1754.4
Sodium bicarbonate	1160
Glucose	1080
Arginine HCl	421.4
Sodium acetate	300
Disodium phosphate	284
Leucine	131.2
Serine	126.1
Mg chloride	120.0
K chloride	112
Valine	70.3
Sodium pyruvate	55
Lysine HCl	54
Histidine HCl	50
Cysteine HCl	42
Adenine	24
Threonine	24
Ca chloride	20.05

Inositol	18
Glutamic acid	14.8
Asparagine	14.2
Methionine	13.5
Tyrosine	11.7
Phenylalanine	10.0
Tryptophan	9.3
Alanine	9.2
Glycine	7.6
Isoleucine	6.0
Aspartic acid	4.0
Sodium sulfate	3.4
Ferrous sulfate	0.003
Folic acid	0.8
Thymidine	0.73
Cyanocobalamin	0.41
Calcium antiothenate	0.3
Thiamine HCl	0.3
Thioctic acid	0.3
Zinc sulfate	0.144
Sodium silicate	0.142
Pyrodixine HCl	0.06
Niacinamide	0.04
Riboflavin	0.3
Biotin	0.02

Copper sulfate	0.003
Ammonium molybdate	0.00120
Ammonium vanadate	0.003
Mn chloride	0.00002
Sodium hyaluronate	70
Polyhexanide or polyhexamethylene biguanide	0.1
n-acetylcysteine	500
Hydroxyproline or praline <u>proline</u>	35.

15. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ophthalmologic medicine or ophthalmologic solution is in liquid form or in dry form for reconstitution with an aqueous medium.

16. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the treatment product is in liquid form or in dry form for reconstitution with an aqueous medium.

17. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ophthalmologic medicine or ophthalmologic solution is in a form selected from the group consisting of drops or regenerating tears, comfort drops, eyewash, and solution.

18. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ophthalmic solution is a comfort solution.

19. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The process as claimed in ~~claim 4,~~ claim 2, wherein the trophic composition is formulated so as to establish a pH between 7.3 and 7.5 and an osmolarity between 300 and 350 ~~Osm~~ mOsm.

20. (New) The process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the ophthalmologic solution comprises hyaluronic acid and/or a salt of hyaluronic acid in a total proportion by weight of the trophic composition of at most 0.07%.